FDI cap in airport modernisation

246. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FDI cap in the joint venture companies for modernisation and restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports has been reduced to 49 per cent;

(b) if so, the details of promoters or financial institutions that are going to hold the remaining 51 per cent stake in the above project; and

(c) what measures AAI propose to take about the work force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Govenment of India Public Sector Undertakings will hold 26% equity. Remaining 25% equity will be held by other Indian entities (Indian companies).

(c) Employees of AAI at the airports of Delhi and Mumbai will be on mandatory deputation with the Joint Venture Company for a period of 3 years. The Joint Venture Company will be required to absorb a minimum of net 40% of the existing employees working at these airports including those working in the CNS/ATM and security services. After the deputation period, the employees who are not absorbed by the Joint Venture Companies would revert to AAI.

Valuables missing from baggages of passengers

247. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that missing of valuables from inside the baggage of the passengers is on the rise;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received from passengers during the last three years, year-wise and airport-wise; and

(c) the details of efforts made or proposed to be made by AAI to curb this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of complaints received by Indian Airlines in this regard were 7 (Delhi-1, Kolkata-6), 9 (Jammu-1, Kolkata-6, Colombo-2) and 24 (Delhi-3, Mumbai-2, Nagpur-1, Bhavnagar-1, Kolkata-11 and Chennai-6) during 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively.

In Air India, the number of pilferage cases were 198 (Ahmedabad-18, Bangalore-5, Chennai-18, Calicut-7, Cochin-3, Delhi-85, Hyderabad-8, Mumbai-49 and Trivandrum-5), 180 (Ahmedabad-21, Bangalore-9, Chennai-5, Calicut-1, Delhi-70, Hyderabad-6, Kolkata-2, Mumbai-63 and Trivandrum-3) and 269 (Ahmedabad-23, Bangalore-7, Chennai-36, Calicut-3, Delhi-89, Hyderabad-7, Mumbai-101 and Trivandrum-3) during 2001, 2002 and 2003 respectively.

(c) Airline companies have taken several measures to curb this menace.

In Indian Airlines, such complaints are immediately referred to SecurityA/igilance for necessary investigation. Further, as per the practice followed by most airlines world-over, Indian Airlines also advises its passengers through a notice in the ticket to the effect that "currency, precious metals, jewellery, negotiable instruments, securities, personal identification documents and items of value are best carried with the passenger in the cabin".

Air India is providing strict security surveillance of all baggage movements. Air India also provides small pouches to passengers to remove their valuables before retrieving their over-sized hand baggage to avoid pilferage of valuables.

Improvement in flight safety record

248. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the year 2004 saw the poorest flight safety record in 50 years of civil helicopter operations in the country;

(b) whether the record has worsened due to violation of the operating norms laid down by Government and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, DGCA;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the flight safety record of helicopter operations; and